

CITY COUNCIL
Sunbury PA 17801
April 26, 2010
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable David L. Persing, Mayor, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

David L. Persing, Mayor
Todd E. Snyder, Director of Accounts and Finance
Joseph J. Bartello, III, Director of Public Safety
Kevin E. Troup, Director of Public Works
James R. Eister, Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Lisa Persing, City Controller
Michael Apfelbaum, City Solicitor
Stephen A. Mazzeo, Chief of Police
Michael Rhoads, Property Maintenance Officer
Terry Specht, City Clerk

There were ten (10) visitors present.

EARLY INTERVENTION REPORT

Mr. Robert Sabatini presented a finalized Early Intervention Report to city council members. He highlighted several areas with a Summary of Priorities with recommendations for improvement and the overall effectiveness of City operations (see attached). The final report is in the City Clerk's office for review.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT PHASE II NOTICE TO PROCEED

Councilman Eister explained that Phase II is for the river bank stabilization portion of the project. Councilman Eister moved to authorize Buchart Horn, Inc. to give Notice to Proceed to HRI, Inc., the low bidder that will be awarded the project and authorization for the mayor to sign all documents. The motion excludes the marina at this time. Rep. Phillips office is contacting the Fish and Boat Commission to try to get an answer about the grant that was applied for to build the marina. Councilman Snyder asked if the docks would be excluded from the contract at this time. Councilman Eister answered yes, but they could be added back into the project as an alternate toward the end of the project, after hearing whether the Fish and Boat Commission is awarding a grant to the City for the marina portion of the project. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

APPROVE \$19,997 TO COMPLY WITH RDA-300 FORM/RIVERFRONT PROJECT

Councilman Eister moved to approve the expenditure of \$19,997. which was understated on the RACP project forms. At this time it is not known if the expenditure will be needed, however accounting for the expenditure is required by HRG, the firm hired by the state to monitor the use of RACP funds, so the full amount shown on the RDA-300 form is correct. The funds will be taken out of the Line of Credit, if needed. This balances the line item on the RDA 300 form. Second – Snyder. Unanimous vote.

REJECT ALL BIDS FOR CITY HALL ROOF

Councilman Eister moved to reject all bids for the replacement roof at city hall. New bid specs will be advertised to increase the warranty to 30 years. Funds are available to increase the warranty from the grant that is to be used for renovations to city hall. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

HIRE TEMPORARY PART-TIME CODE OFFICER

Councilman Bartello moved to hire Mr. Mike Robel at an hourly rate of \$12 per hour for 90 days as a temporary part-time employee. At the end of the 90 days the situation would be re-evaluated. He stated that per Mr. Sabatini's report the code office is very far behind on inspections and in desperate need of help. Councilman Eister asked what the part-time employees that have worked in the code office would be doing. Councilman Bartello answered they would be let go. Councilman Troup said that at the last meeting council did not second the motion to hire Mr. Robel and he showed up for work the next day any how. Councilman Bartello said he told him to show up at work the next day. Second – Snyder. No – Eister, Persing, Troup. Yes – Snyder, Bartello. The motion did not carry. Mayor Persing asked if he would review the code office monthly reports would it justify whether someone else is

needed in the office and the answer from Councilman Bartello was yes. General discussion was held regarding the code office.

LEGAL SERVICES FEES

Mayor Persing asked council members to avoid contacting the Solicitor for every question they may have. The legal fee budget is much higher than it ever was and he hopes to lower that in the 2011 budget. Councilman Eister said the Riverfront Project is so involved that legal opinions and review are needed. Councilman Snyder explained that with the Riverfront Project, there were no legal fees budgeted for the project in the general fund. He said the bottom-line for all taxpayers is that there is a \$8+ million project and every contract that council members do not have time to read pertaining to the reimbursement contracts, must be reviewed by the solicitor or the grant money may not be reimbursed. The line of credit must be used to start to pay for the legal fees. Solicitor Apfelbaum reminded council members that when the legal fees line items are exhausted, he is a “volunteer” for the City and performs his tasks at no fee.

AWARD BIDS FOR SALE OF JUNK BICYCLES

One bid was received for the sale of the junk bicycles being held in the City’s warehouse. Mr. Shane Spencer bid \$215.50. Mayor Persing moved to accept the bid to get rid of approximately 100-125 bicycles. Second – Eister. Yes – Persing, Troup, Eister. No – Bartello, Snyder. Officer Hare said some of the bikes that were obviously junk were disposed of. Auctions have been held in the past and good bikes sold for \$10. so the bid is not out of line.

HARB APPROVAL

As requested by the Historic Architectural Review Board:

Motion Bartello	2 nd Eister	259 Market St. (window replacement)	Unanimous vote
Motion Bartello	2 nd Eister	329 Chestnut St. (1/2 roof on double home)	Unanimous vote

HIRE 2 INMATES FOR PAINTING/CITY HALL GRANT

Councilman Troup moved to hire 2 inmates at \$7.25/hour that have been painting city hall. They have worked for community service for 3 weeks. They will be paid from the grant for city hall renovations. Second – Eister. Vote – Yes - Troup, Eister, Persing. No – Snyder, Bartello. Motion carried. Councilman Troup explained that this helps to pay their fines, restitution and room/board.

HIRE PUBLIC WORKS/TEMPORARY SUMMER

Councilman Troup moved to hire 2 students John Brosius and Nolan Blackwell at \$8.25 per hour for the public works department to mow, paint curbs, etc. This will be their second year working for public works. Vote – Yes – Eister, Persing, Snyder, Troup. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

HIRE PARK & RECREATION/TEMPORARY SUMMER

Councilman Eister moved to hire Sam Thomas at \$7.50 per hour for up to 20 hours per week to help with the park and recreation department for the summer. Vote – Yes – Persing, Snyder, Troup, Eister. No – Bartello. Motion carried.

HIRE PHEAA STUDENTS/PLAYGROUND INSTRUCTOR AND LIFEGUARDS

Councilman Eister moved to hire students through the Work/Study program for playground supervisors and lifeguards (2 of which will be reimbursed by the Work/Study program) and 1 to work at Keithan’s Garden. PHEAA reimburses the City approximately \$25,000 of the student’s wages. Second – Troup. Unanimous vote.

YOUTH BUILD/CAREER LINK

Councilman Troup explained that through a program with Career Link, the City will have 2 workers that Career Link pays and covers with workman’s compensation. They will also be painting at city hall but can be used in other departments as needed. They can work 350 hours/35 hours per week and get paid minimum wage \$7.25/hour.

THIRD FLOOR CITY HALL

Councilman Eister explained that he and Councilman Troup met with Commissioner Sawicki regarding the county’s interest in leasing space on the 3rd floor at city hall. They will be discussing a lease rate per square foot later in the week to rent space to the county. This topic will be brought back

to council when a per square foot amount is agreed upon. Mayor Persing appointed both councilmen to a committee to follow-up with this project.

PERSING COMPLEX/PSU PROJECT

Mayor Persing told council that 2 Penn State landscape architecture students will be participating in a plan sponsored by the college to create a master plan showing a flow for pedestrians using the area. At this time, there is no clear flow through the complex. It will also include meeting areas, signage and parking ideas.

FENCED IN FIELDS/NO ANIMALS ALLOWED

Mayor Persing announced that all the signs are in place and anyone caught walking pets in the fields will be cited by the police department, with no warning.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Mr. Garry Leister asked when the repairs to the steps to the Cameron monument would be repaired. He is concerned that if that does not take place soon more damage will be done. He asked in 2009 for the steps to be repaired and it still hasn't been done. He had them re-caulked in 2003. The ice from the winter has pushed the steps further apart. Councilman Eister said that it was going to be added to the renovation work in Cameron Park but it was too costly. Once that project is complete, repairing the steps to the monument will go out for bid. Mr. Leister has the address of the company he used before.

Ms. Diane Petryk of The Daily Item asked when the issue of restoring the fountain in Cameron Park would be brought up. Councilman Eister said the fountain is back in Sunbury at this time. Ms. Petryk asked if it was decided if the old fountain would be used instead of purchasing a new fountain and the answer is yes. Councilman Snyder asked that whatever is decided, he would request that it is safe.

Mr. David Whipple asked for an update on the Joseph St. project. Councilman Troup said Mike Bordner has been in touch with Dempsey and they will ask their employees not to park in that area so millings can be laid and pressed down.

Mr. Whipple also asked what the progress with the former Celotex site is. Councilman Eister said he has spoken with some of the people involved with that property, and while he cannot speak to it at this time, he thinks the people in that neighborhood will be happy with the progress in the coming year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht
City Clerk